



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

MORE THAN 50 TENNESSEANS WITH DISABILITIES GAIN SKILLS TO GO TO WORK

SMYRNA , Tenn.— Dozens of young men and women with significant disabilities, including traumatic brain injury and mental retardation, donned cap and gown and walked or rolled their wheelchairs across the stage at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna today. The 57 students come from all over the state, representing 21 counties from Shelby to Sullivan. All of the students are determined to improve their lives and enter or re-enter the workforce.

The new graduates took advantage of the diverse programs offered at TRC, including Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training.

TRC's mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment. The services offered at TRC assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.

"Clients graduating from the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna enjoy a higher employment placement rate than our clients who do not receive TRC services," said DHS Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Andrea Cooper. "The TRC's comprehensive approach builds confidence through a series of small, immediate successes in an environment where a setback or mistake doesn't cost a job."

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only eight such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client's interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

TRC serves more than 1,300 Tennesseans with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 30,000 individuals.

For more information about TRC, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, visit www.state.tn.us/humanserv

The following pages contain a list of graduates by city and county and the program area from which they graduated:

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Program Area
Sara	Ramsdell	Elizabethton	Carter	OT/PT
Matthew	Gibson	Bells	Crockett	Warehouse
Jamont	Smith	Nashville	Davidson	Auto Detail
Shameka	Allen	Madison	Davidson	Commercial Cleaning
Brandon	Johnson	Nashville	Davidson	JOBS
Sean	Stanley	Old Hickory	Davidson	OT/PT
Marina	Heilmeier	Nashville	Davidson	TBI
Henry	Walker	Nashville	Davidson	TBI
Valdet	Krasniqi	Nashville	Davidson	VIS
Alison	Loftis	Nashville	Davidson	VIS
Matt	Branch	Nashville	Davidson	JOBS
Cierra	Clendening	Nashville	Davidson	JOBS
Bonnie	Hall	Huntland	Franklin	Auto Detail
Ashley	Mize	Morristown	Hamblen	Food Service
Tawanda	Jones	Chattanooga	Hamilton	Business Ed
Rachel	Johnson	Ooltewah	Hamilton	Food Service
Tamia	Summerville	Chattanooga	Hamilton	Groundskeeping
Daniel	Riley	Chattanooga	Hamilton	JOBS
Kevin	Dowdy	Chattanooga	Hamilton	TLS
Travis	Harrison	New Johnsonville	Humphreys	JOBS
Loren	Kendall	New Johnsonville	Humphreys	Warehouse
Michael	Moore	Dandridge	Jefferson	JOBS
Kezia	Cox	Knoxville	Knox	Auto Detail
Juan	Narvaez	Knoxville	Knox	Food Service
Mario	Rodriguez	Knoxville	Knox	Groundskeeping
Marshall	Saylor	Heiskell	Knox	JOBS
John	Ford	Knoxville	Knox	OT/PT
Edward 'Eddie'	Norris	Knoxville	Knox	TBI
Markeshia	Brooks	Jackson	Madison	Commercial Cleaning
William	Kolwyck	Jackson	Madison	JOBS
Adam	Hawkins	Clarksville	Montgomery	Food Service
James	Lowe	Murfreesboro	Rutherford	Auto Maintenance
Ryan	Thorn	Murfreesboro	Rutherford	Auto Detail
Christopher	Cunningham	Smyrna	Rutherford	Groundskeeping
Nicholas 'Nick'	Watson	LaVergne	Rutherford	TLS
Doug	Hugh	Murfreesboro	Rutherford	VIS
Dexter	Hurd	Murfreesboro	Rutherford	VIS
Michael	Wood	Kodak	Sevier	Warehouse
Elan	Ashter	Memphis	Shelby	Auto Maintenance
Mary	Leonard	Memphis	Shelby	Business Ed
Steve	Cunningham	Arlington	Shelby	VIS
David	Williams	Memphis	Shelby	VIS
Jasmine	Fleming	Memphis	Shelby	Warehouse
Amanda	King	Bluff City	Sullivan	JOBS
Joshua	Craig	Whitehouse	Sumner	Auto Detail
Terry	Proctor	Hendersonville	Sumner	Food Service
Helmuth	Reategui	Hendersonville	Sumner	Warehouse

Nathan	Phillips	Burlison	Tipton	OT/PT
Elisha	Brewer	Luttrell	Union	TLS
Misty	Essary	Dresden	Weakley	TBI
Sarah	Cribbs	Fairview	Williamson	OT/PT
James	Green	Primm Springs	Williamson	TLS
Bonnie	Stuffer	Franklin	Williamson	TLS
Matthew	Craft	Brentwood	Williamson	OT/PT
Sasha	Tate	Mt. Juliet	Wilson	Business Ed
Justin	Swigert	Lebanon	Wilson	Commercial Cleaning
Anthony	Wilson	Lebanon	Wilson	Groundskeeping

The following is a list of TRC graduates by county and program:

JOBS— Job Objectives & Behavioral Services

TLS— Transitional Life Skills

OT/PT— Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy

VIS— Vision Impairment Services